

INSIDE TV by MILTON SHULMAN

WHO KILLED MARK LANE?

ALTHOUGH it ran for over four hours, it was not likely that BBC-2's programme, The Death of Kennedy, would change many people's minds about who did or did not assassinate the President.

But it was a daring experiment which certainly paid off. This is, after all, the greatest murder mystery of our time and the intricacies of the argument, the conflicting clues, the incongruous witnesses, the sinister motives and the baffling inconsistencies needed elbow-room and detailed argument to draw us subtly into its net of fascinating speculation.

If I feel that Mark Lane's thesis was demonstrably demolished, I am sure there are those who will swear he was amply vindicated.

Those determined to support The Great Conspiracy thesis will claim that Mark Lane's case was too often frustrated and stifled by Kenneth Harris's chairmanship.

And it certainly looked to the casual observer that the Warren Commission lawyers were talking at least twice as much as Lane. The production error here was that the viewer was not immediately told what the rules of the programme were to be.

Mark Lane's case was to be largely his film, Rush To Judgment. The other side was to be given the opportunity to rebut the film. The fact that Lane demanded, and often received, an opportunity to

examine the cross-examination confused everyone as to what his rights were.

For me the American Professor of Law summed up the case logically and succinctly. The single bullet theory was yet to be proved. Everything else was dubious speculation which was not nearly as convincing as the case accepted by the Warren Commission.

Lord Devlin's comment that if the single bullet theory was disproved, and if a second assassin was presumed to exist that no further purpose would be served in trying to find him, was, I thought, a most disturbing judicial conclusion.

Who he was and who has been sheltering him all this time are the questions that have agonised everyone since the assassination. It is the crux of the entire fuss. I don't personally believe that he exists, but if he did justice would demand every effort of the state to dig him out and try him.